BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of
Management Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gems6.gov.bc.ca

Issue: 03-46 November 14, 2003

- **Shipments up for the third month in a row**
- **Exports rebound in September**
- **Housing starts remain robust**

The Economy

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in the province increased for the third consecutive month in September (+2.5%, seasonally adjusted) as the manufacturing industry began to pick up speed after stalling at the beginning of the year.** The improvement was largely driven by a turnaround in the wood products industry, where shipments have been climbing since June. Plywood prices have risen substantially in recent months, and the price received for BC softwood lumber is also trending up.

  Producers of fabricated metals increased their shipments 10.8%, while manufacturers of computer and electronic products (+4.5%) continued to post gains. Overall, shipments by producers of durable goods were up 4.9% from August levels. On the non-durables side, paper (+1.5%) and food (+0.9%) shipments rose modestly, but other major products were weak, dragging the overall total down (-0.6%). The printing and related (-13.1%) and chemical (-14.4%) industries both saw double-digit declines in the value of shipments in September.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Steady growth contributed to the first quarterly increase in the value of BC shipments (+3.7%, seasonally adjusted) in a year.** British Columbia, Newfoundland (+6.9%) and Manitoba (+2.3%) were the only provinces to make substantial gains in the third quarter. Nationally, shipments edged down 0.4%, due to a slump in Ontario (-1.3), which was largely attributable to the effects of the power outage in August. Shipments were off 0.5% in Alberta and were flat in Quebec. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Exports of BC products rebounded (+1.3%, *seasonally adjusted*) in September, boosted by an upturn in international shipments of forest products (+5.8%).** Exports to the US remained weak (-0.9%), but shipments to other destinations were substantially higher (+6.1%) than in August. Overseas, the export growth was largely due to industrial products and consumer goods (+37.0%). Canadian exports were up 4.7% in September.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **In the third quarter, BC exports increased 5.9% (*unadjusted*), largely due to energy exports, which were nearly double (+84.6%) the third-quarter 2002 value.** Alberta (+14.2%) and New Brunswick (+5.1%) were the only other regions where exports rose significantly. British Columbia's third quarter increase more than offset a second-quarter drop (-6.6%), while in Alberta, exports rose for a fourth consecutive quarter. Canadian exports were off 5.1%, reflecting weakness in the rest of the country, particularly Ontario (-11.7%), where exports were dampened by the effects of plant shutdowns and the power blackout in August. In addition, the rising value of the loonie is making Canadian products more expensive to foreign purchasers, while sales contracts denominated in US currency are less valuable than they used to be. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Fewer new motor vehicles were driven off car lots in BC in September (-3.5%, seasonally adjusted) than in the previous month.** The downturn in new vehicle sales was part of a nation-wide trend that saw sales slump in every province except Ontario (+2.1%). Canadian sales were off 1.9%. In BC, sales of trucks and vans were particularly weak (-6.2%) but car sales were also lower (-1.5%) than in August.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Despite a poor showing in September, new vehicle sales in BC were robust in the third**

Report Non-Permanent Residents and Citizenship

Did you know...
Alberta is the sweetest province in the country, at least from a honey lover's perspective. This year, Alberta bees produced 11,975 tonnes of honey, more than a third of the national total. BC bees stored up 1,422 tonnes of the sweet stuff.

quarter, increasing 13.8% (seasonally adjusted), more than in any other province except Saskatchewan (+16.4%). Overall, business was brisk across the country, with sales rising 5.5% nationally. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **There were 767 consumer bankruptcies registered in the province in September, 3.5% less than in the same month last year.** Consumer bankruptcies were up in most provinces, and increased 8.7% nationally, rising to 7,209.

  There were significantly more (+31.8%) business bankruptcies in BC this September than in the same month of 2002. Construction (15), accommodation, food & beverage services (15) and business services (11) accounted for nearly half of the 87 business failures registered in September. *Data Source: Industry Canada*

Housing

- **The cost of new housing in BC's two largest cities continued to climb in September.** New housing prices in Victoria were 8.6% higher than in the same month last year, as builders spent more on both land (+9.0%) and housing construction costs (+8.6%). In Vancouver, prices were up a more modest 3.4%, as the value of buildings constructed was 4.7% higher than in September 2002, while land prices rose 1.3%. Nationally, the cost of new housing increased 5.1% in September. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The pace of new building activity in British Columbia continued unabated in October.** Housing starts were up 2.8% (seasonally adjusted), after rising nearly ten percent in the previous month. BC's increase was slightly higher than the national average (+2.2%). Starts advanced in six provinces. Manitoba (+46.5%) made the strongest gain, as starts recovered after slumping in September. *Data Source: CMHC*

Foreign Direct Investment

- **Canadian businesses invest more money in operations outside the country than is invested by foreigners in Canada.** Last year, the total value of Canadian direct investment abroad was $432 billion, while non-residents invested $349 billion in Canadian businesses. The positive balance on the foreign investment account is, however, largely due to the finance and insurance industry. Nearly a third ($155 billion) of foreign investment by Canadian businesses is in this sector. Excluding the financial sector, Canada is a net recipient of foreign investment (investing $277 billion outside the country in 2002 while receiving $311 billion in foreign direct investment). Other industries that are net foreign investors include mining, oil & gas extraction & utilities (+$4 billion) and information & communication technologies (+$20 billion). Canada's manufacturing sector is a net recipient of foreign investment (-$39 billion), with the food, beverage & tobacco (-$26 billion) and petroleum & coal products (-$25 billion) industries receiving the biggest net inflows. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Public Infrastructure & The Economy

- **Local governments held about half of Canada's $228 billion in public sector capital in 2002, with federal (18%) and provincal (34%) governments owning smaller shares.** In 1961, the total assets of Canadian governments were valued at $14 billion, and the federal government owned more (39%) of the public infrastructure than either the provincial (35%) or local (26%) governments. Most ($157 billion, or roughly 70%) of the publicly owned capital stock is infrastructure (roads, highways, bridges, docks, sewer systems and other civil engineering works). Highways, roads and bridges account for the lion's share of the total at the provincial and local levels, and are also significant federally.

  It is estimated that every dollar spent on public infrastructure between 1961 and 2000 generated an average annual "cost saving" to producers of about 17 cents (from reduced transportation costs, less wear and tear on vehicles, shorter travel times, and so on). While all industries benefited, the marginal benefits were highest for the transportation (42 cents per dollar) and wholesale and retail trade (about 34 cents) industries. *Data Source: SC, Catalogue 11-624-MIE No. 005*

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Infoline Report

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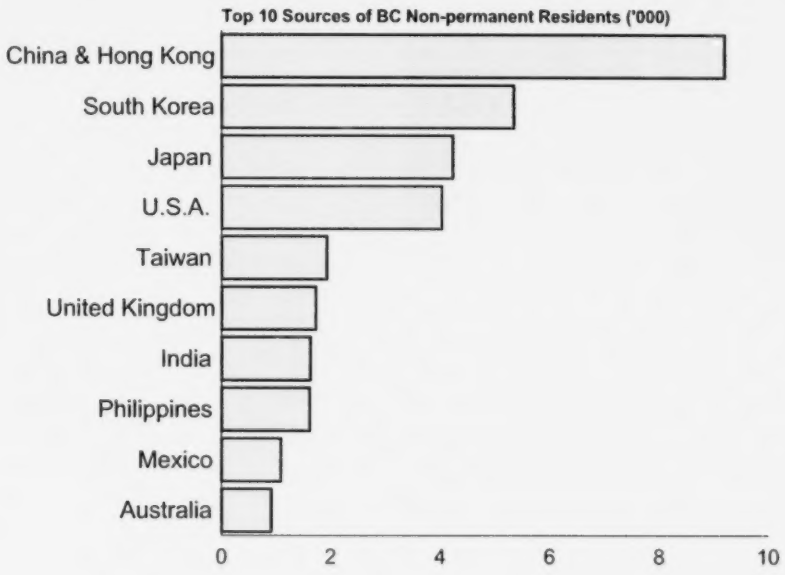
Originally published in *Immigration Highlights*, Issue 03-2. Annual subscription $30 + GST

Non-Permanent Residents and Citizenship

British Columbia appears to be a preferred province for many non-permanent residents as it is home for a high share of all temporary residents living in Canada . . .



Non-Permanent Residents

Non-permanent residents (NPRs) are persons from another country who hold a student or employment authorization, a minister's permit, or who are refugee claimants and family members living in Canada with them. During the 2001 Census, there were 37,190 NPRs living in British Columbia, accounting for about 19 per cent of all the 198,645 non-permanent residents living in Canada at that time. While non-permanent residents usually represent a very small percentage of the population, they tend to exhibit slightly different social and economic characteristics when compared to the general population.

A high proportion of the non-permanent residents in B.C. are young indicating many are students or dependant children. In 2001, 44 per cent of NPRs in the province were under the age 25. Also, more than three-quarters of the NPRs lived in the Vancouver metropolitan area. Vancouver was the third most frequent destination for NPRs after Toronto and Montreal.

Similar to recent immigrants, a majority of NPRs are from Asia. In 2001, 61.3 per cent of all NPRs living in B.C. were Asian and seven out of the top ten NPR sources were Asian countries. China Mainland and Hong Kong combined were the top sources of NPRs to the province.

Korea was the second largest source of NPRs and most were students studying in the province. Some NPRs from certain countries tended to be in the temporary work permit category. For example, a majority of the NPRs from the Philippines were temporary workers under the Live-in Care Giver Program.

Canadian Citizenship

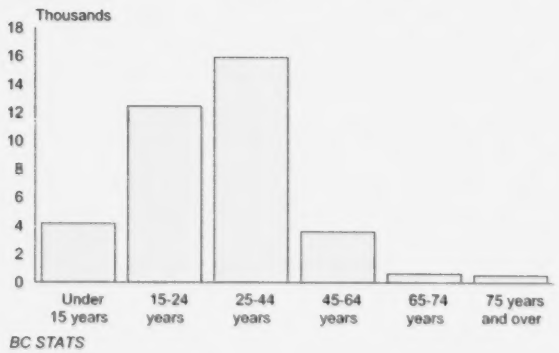
A person can become a Canadian Citizen by birth or by naturalization. While most of the Canadian population are Canadian citizens, there are permanent residents who immigrated to Canada and who are still not Canadian citizens. The 2001 Census indicates that about 7.8 per cent or 302,940 B.C. residents did not have Canadian citizenship. This proportion has declined slightly from the nine per cent observed in the 1996 Census.

While most immigrants had become Canadian citizens after settling in the country for a length of time, there is a small group of immigrants who still have not been naturalized even after living in Canada for a long time. The 2001 Census shows that of the immigrants living in B.C. who have not been naturalized, 20 per cent had arrived in Canada prior to 1980.

On the other hand, there is a small proportion of the population holding more than one citizenship. Canada is one of the few countries in the world that allows dual citizenship and as a result some immigrants have obtained Canadian citizenship through naturalization and continued to keep the citizenship status of their native country. Of the B.C. immigrant population in 2001 who have been naturalized, approximately 12 per cent still maintained citizenship of one or more other countries. However, naturalized immigrants tended to be less likely to hold citizenship of other countries after living in Canada for a longer period of time.

B.C. Non-Permanent Residents By Age

2001 Census



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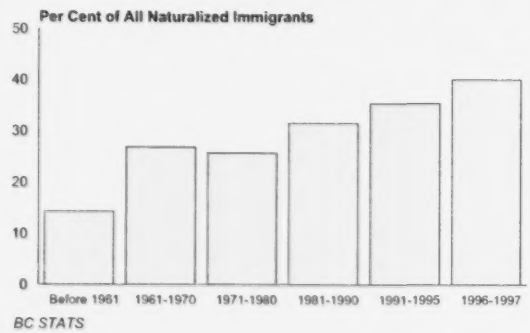
B.C. Naturalized Immigrants Having Other Citizenship

By Period of Immigration



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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/03	% change on one year ago
BC	4,146.6	0.8
Canada	31,629.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2002	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	135,552	2.7
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	128,151	2.4
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	31,143	1.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,576	0.1
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Sep	2,903	2.5
Merchandise Exports - Aug	2,515	-3.3
Retail Sales - Aug	3,480	1.6
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)	Sep '03	% change
BC	121.2	2.6
Canada	122.7	3.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '03	% change on prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,222	0.1
Employed - BC	2,048	1.5
Unemployed - BC	173	-13.7
		Sep '03
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.8	9.1
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.6	8.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 12/03	Nov 13/02
Prime Business Rate	4.50	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.75	4.90
- 5 year	6.65	6.70
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 12/03	Nov 13/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.3004	1.5764
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.7668	0.6350
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Oct '03	% change on one year ago
BC	683.06	1.7
Canada	668.63	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2001 Census Profiles

We have started the roll-out of our area profiles based on the 2001 Census. Check them out at

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen01/c01index.htm

Each 18-page profile, in PDF format, reveals just about all you can know about an area. Three pages of charts compare the area's makeup to that of the province (or country in the case of our provincial profiles). These are followed by data tables showing both local values and percentage distributions. A number of charts and tables feature data sorted according to the unique local experience.

Canada, the **provinces**, & **regional district** profiles are posted to our site now. We will post an additional 1400 areas as soon as we develop the look-up code and obtain the required storage capacity – coming soon are profiles for

- ✓ **Census Subdivisions** (municipalities, regional district electoral areas, Indian reserves)
- ✓ **Urban Areas** & **neighbourhoods** in larger metro areas (CA/CMA and census tracts)
- ✓ **Designated Places** (unincorporated areas identified prior to the census)

These additional files will be available in our WebStore for $5 each and will be included in our subscription site ($200/year).

Did you know . . .

Many public & academic libraries in BC offer free access to our subscription site.

Released this week by BC STATS

- Labour Force Statistics, October 2003

Next week

- Exports, September 2003
- Consumer Price Index, October 2003
- Earnings & Employment Trends, October 2003

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